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The President's Daily Brief

10 November 1971

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Top Secret

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 November 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] 50X1

The Soviets have air-to-surface missiles in Egypt [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] *(Page 2)* 50X1

The military situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 3*.

[redacted] 50X1

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

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Only one incursion by Indians in battalion strength has been confirmed. The Pakistani press, however, has reported the use of Indian regulars several times, including an attack yesterday on the eastern border by two companies supported by armor and artillery.

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USSR-EGYPT

A Soviet-built air-to-surface missile has been seen in recent satellite photography of Aswan air-field in Egypt. It is a type called the "Kelt" and was designed to be fired from TU-16 medium bombers.

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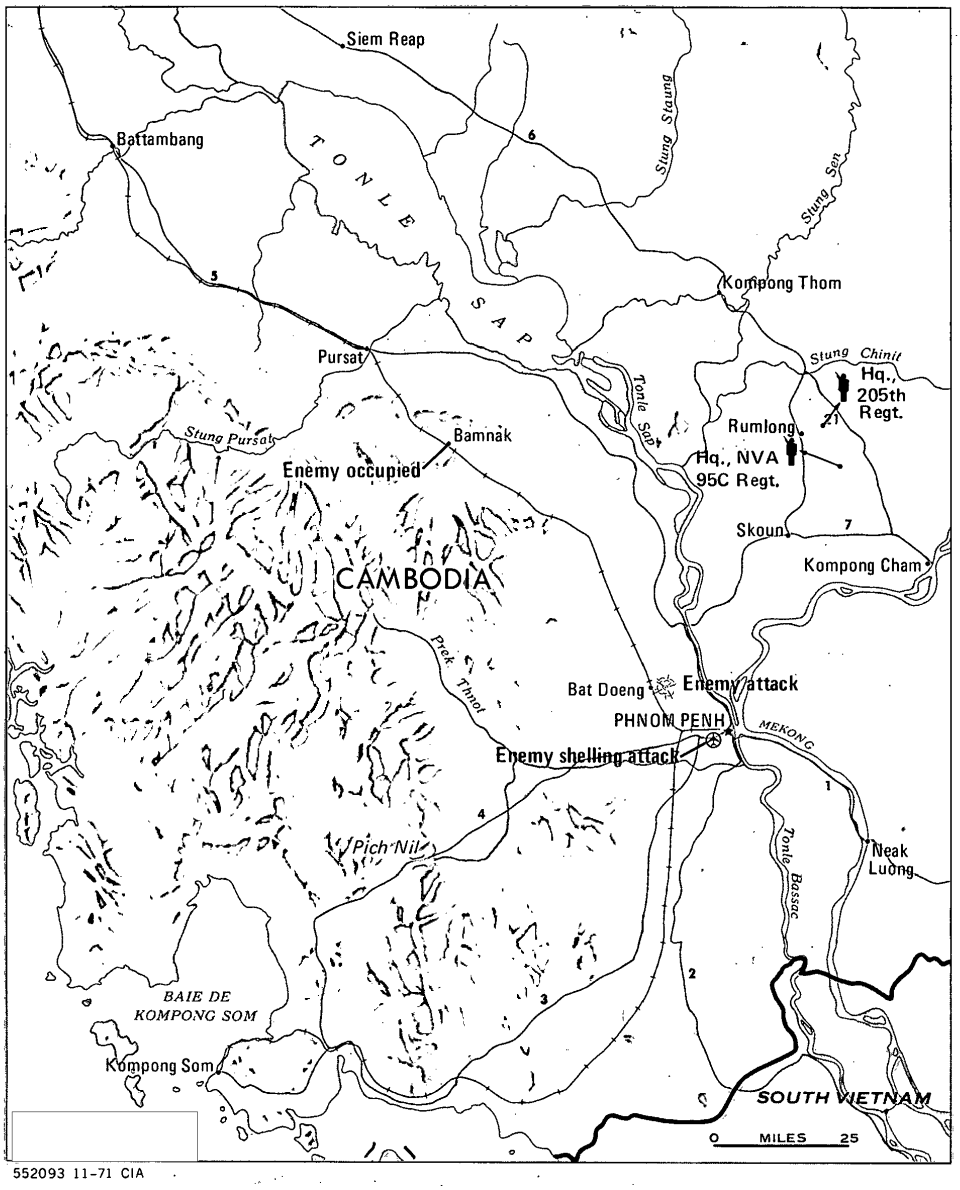

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CAMBODIA

The Communists hit Pochentong airfield near Phnom Penh early this morning with a 50-round barrage of mortar, recoilless rifle, and rocket fire. Four people were killed and six wounded, according to initial reports. Three aircraft were destroyed and 12 damaged. Several support buildings were hit, but key navigation and communications facilities were missed and the airport is functioning normally. Following this strike, a government installation on the perimeter of the airfield was attacked by enemy troops, who inflicted fairly heavy casualties. These were the first attacks in the Phnom Penh area since late September, when enemy sappers caused extensive damage to several oil storage facilities.

The Communists are also increasingly active northwest of the capital. On Monday, two government battalions were attacked about ten miles from Phnom Penh near the rail line town of Bat Doeng. The Communists have also occupied the village of Bamnak, further north along the rail line, following two days of sharp fighting there, and ambushed a relief force from Pursat.

In the Route 6 area, the Communists may be rotating their forces while keeping up pressure on government units near Rumlong. The headquarters of the North Vietnamese 95C Regiment has moved closer to the village and is now located on the west side of Route 6, while the Vietnamese/Khmer Communist 205th Regiment has pulled back to a position about 13 miles northeast of Rumlong, possibly for rest and refitting.

The continued hard fighting along Route 6 is beginning to exact a psychological toll in Phnom Penh, where the optimism of Cambodian military leaders has given way to excessive pessimism. Prime Minister Lon Nol is scheduled to meet with his field commanders today to discuss what to do next.

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USSR

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NOTES

Communist China: [redacted] 50X1

[redacted]

USSR-Cuba: The Soviet naval group that has been visiting Cuba left Havana yesterday following a ten-day port call. The two guided missile ships, two diesel submarines and a tanker were located off the western tip of Cuba this morning. If they follow past practice they will operate for a short time in the Gulf of Mexico and south of Cuba. They will probably also make a call at Cienfuegos before leaving the Caribbean. A Cuban announcement of their departure from Havana said the group has begun training maneuvers.

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